



Department of Health and Social Care Consultation

Healthcare Regulation - deciding when statutory regulation is appropriate

Do you agree or disagree that a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the risk of harm to patients is the most important factor to consider when deciding whether to regulate a health or care profession?

Agree

Our survey of social prescribing link workers in 2020 highlighted that 1 in 3 planned to resign due to lack of supervision and support. In addition, the report highlighted patient safety risks. Last year, we consulted with our members on regulating social prescribing link workers, and 70% supported regulation. Some of the reasons given were that regulation would enable supervision, support, provide consistency and standardise practice as there was variation in practice.

Do you agree or disagree that proportionality, targeted regulation and consistency should also be considered in deciding whether to regulate a health or care profession?

Agree

Regulation is not the only solution required to address patient/public safety. It is part of a comprehensive offer of support and structure that improves quality, legitimacy, better understanding, consistency, and accountability. Our professional register consultation clarifies that it wasn't the most critical priority for social prescribing link workers; other vital issues were highlighted that needed addressing. The question is, will addressing those issues reduce the patient /public safety risk concern?

Do you agree or disagree that currently unregulated professions should remain unregulated and not subject to statutory regulation?

Disagree

See previous answers. The risk needs to be reviewed from time to time. The option for regulation should not be off the table.

References:

<https://www.nalw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/NALW-Professional-Register-Consultation-Response-Survey-Report-20th-April-2021.pdf>

https://www.nalw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NALW_Care-for-the-Carer_-Report_8th-July-2020-Final.pdf